

THE DIGITAL FREEDOM INITIATIVE



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Experience Changing the World.



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The President's Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI) is a partnership among multiple federal agencies, industry, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, and universities. It aims to expand connectivity around the world, particularly by helping developing nations utilize information and communication technologies (ICTs) for economic development and to broaden social and economic benefits. Areas of focus include:

- Improved access and connectivity to telecommunication services in rural areas and across regions;
- Greater policy and regulatory reform, and technical assistance to support infrastructure investment;
- Increased efficiencies through the use of ICTs by small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Expand use of technology in health care, education, and for secure financial transactions;
- More inter-regional commerce and export competitiveness through use of ICTs.

New/Recent Efforts

- *2008 Consumer Electronics Show* – DFI partnered with the Consumer Electronics Association to host the first ever “Technologies and Emerging Countries” program at the 2008 Consumer Electronics Show. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, CEO Paul Jacobs of Qualcomm, and Dr. Nick Negroponte of One Laptop per Child were among the speakers highlighting the role technology plays in development.
- *Pakistan* – DFI is working on a public-private partnership to bring telemedicine services to Pakistan. This project will help to demonstrate the transformative power of connectivity by improving the delivery of healthcare in rural areas of Pakistan using information and communications technology.
- *Latin America* – DFI is exploring the possibility of holding conferences in Washington and Central America to improve regulatory convergence in the telecommunications sector among CAFTA-DR countries.

Past Efforts

- *Senegal* – Over 100 private entities benefited from entrepreneurial and ICT skill training.
- *Peru* – DFI, Intel, Cisco, Motorola, Voxiva and Hewlett Packard supported Government effort to spread the Internet to more than 1,000 rural locations in Peru. <http://www.dfiperu.org/>
- *Jordan* – U.S. business volunteers assisted USAID and other efforts to encourage innovative uses of ICT.
- *East Africa* - DFI co-sponsored a May 2007 workshop with the Government of Rwanda that led to a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the U.S. and ministers from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda to harmonize and fast-track regional efforts to expand broadband connectivity.